

Application No. 10/642, 634
Reply to Office Action dated August 13, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A construction system, comprising:

- (a) a metallic stud definable in terms of an x,y,z, coordinate system, the system comprising:
- (i) a z-axis elongate substantially rectangular integral web within a yz plane thereof;
 - (ii) a series of xz plane tabs projecting within a substantially x-axis direction, said tabs alternating in x-axis dimension between interdigitating greater and lesser dimensions thereof, in which a z-axis line of dependency exists between a common xz plane of all of said tabs and a first major rectangular base of said yz plane of said web of said stud; and
 - (iii) a z-axis elongate L-shaped element integrally dependent from a second major rectangular base of said web, parallel to said first base thereof, said element including an elongate integral xz-plane sub-element extending in a substantially z-axis direction, and substantially parallel with said series of xz plane tabs, from a z-axis line of dependency from said second major base of said web, said L-shaped element further including a yz plane sub-element, in the nature of a

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lip, integrally depending from said first xz plane element along an entire z-axis length thereof, said second sub-element projecting toward said series of xz plane tabs.

- (b) a concrete slab into which substantially all of said greater dimension xz plane tabs of said series thereof are wholly embedded therein prior to the hardening of said slab.

Claim 2 (Original): The system as recited in Claim 1, in which said yz plane sub-element is substantially parallel with said yz plane of said web.

Claim 3 (Original): The system as recited in Claim 1, in which a sub-element of said L-shaped element, in the nature of a lip, is not substantially parallel with said yz plane of said web.

Claim 4 (Original): The system as recited in Claim 1, in which a relationship of a y-axis dimension of said web to an x-axis dimension of said tabs of greater dimension defines a ratio in a range of about 6:1 to about 2:1.

Claim 5 (Original): The metallic stud as recited in Claim 4, in which x-axis dimensions of said L-shaped element and of said xz tabs are approximately equal to each other.

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Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The system as recited in Claim 4, in which an x-axis dimension of said tabs of lesser dimension comprises substantially zero.

Claim 7 (Original): The system as recited in Claim 4, in which a relationship of y-axis dimension of said yz plane sub-element of said L-shaped element to an x-axis dimension of said xz plane sub-element thereof defines a ratio in a range of about 1:1 to about 1:4.

Claim 8 (Original): The system as recited in Claim 4, in which a relationship of a z-axis dimension of said tabs of greater dimension to an x-axis dimension thereof defines a ratio in a range of about 7:1 to about 1:1.

Claim 9 (Original): The system as recited in Claim 7, in which a relationship of a z-axis dimension of said tabs of greater dimension to an x-axis dimension thereof defines a ratio in a range of about 7:1 to about 1:1.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A construction system, comprising:

- (a) a metallic stud for use in the framing of structures, the stud definable in terms of an x, y, z coordinate system, the stud comprising
 - (i) a z-axis elongate substantially rectangular integral web within a yz plane thereof;

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- (ii) a series of xz plane tabs projecting within a substantially x-axis direction, said tabs alternating in x-axis dimension between interdigitating greater and lesser dimensions thereof, in which a z-axis line of dependency exists between a common xz plane of all of said tabs and a first major rectangular base of said yz plane of said web of said stud; and
 - (iii) a z-axis elongate L-shaped element integrally dependent from a second major rectangular base of said web, parallel to said first base thereof, said element including an elongate integral xz-plane sub-element extending in a substantially z-axis direction, and substantially parallel with said series of xz plane tabs, from a z-axis line of dependency from said second major base of said web, and
- (b) a concrete slab into which substantially all of said greater dimension xz plane tabs of said series thereof are wholly embedded therein prior to the hardening of said slab.

Claim 11 (Original): The metallic stud as recited in Claim 10, in which said rectangular integral web includes longitudinally disposed compressible crimp means along a z-axis of said integral web, disposed between said xy plane tabs and said xz sub-elements of said stud.

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Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A construction system comprising:

- (a) a metallic stud for use in the framing of structures, the stud definable in terms of an x, y, z coordinate system, the stud comprising:
 - (i) a z-axis elongate substantially rectangular integral web within a yz plane thereof;
 - (ii) a series of xz plane tabs projecting within a substantially x-axis direction, said tabs alternating in x-axis dimension between interdigitating greater and lesser dimensions thereof, in which a z-axis line of dependency exists between a common xz plane of all of said tabs and a first major rectangular base of said yz plane of said web of said stud, and said xz plane tabs of greater dimension further including yz plane sub-elements, in the nature of lip, integrally depending from said xz plane tabs and projecting toward and parallel with said substantially rectangular yz plane web, in which said xz plane tabs of greater dimension include z-axis elongate members projecting integrally from said xz plane tabs but in a direction away from said yz plane integral web; and
 - (iii) a z-axis elongate L-shaped element integrally dependent from a second major rectangular base of said web, parallel to said first base thereof, said element including an elongate

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integral xz-plane sub-element extending in a substantially z-axis direction, and substantially parallel with said series of xz plane tabs, from a z-axis line of dependency from said second major base of said web, said L-shaped element further including a yz plane sub-element, in the nature of a lip, integrally depending from said first xz plane element along an entire z-axis length thereof, said second sub-element projecting toward said series of xz plane tabs; and

- (b) a concrete slab into which substantially all of said greater dimension xz plane tabs of said series thereof are wholly embedded therein prior to the hardening of said slab.